Ban on Asbestos industry

1456. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many countries in the world have banned asbestos industry as it poses great health hazard leading to acute lung disease 'asbestoses';

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to discourage this industry in India and what safeguards are being taken to prevent the health hazards; and

(c) whether Government will see to it that asbestos products would carry statutory warning that it is injurious to health?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Use of same forms of asbestos is banned in some countries in the world.

(b) Government has put asbestos and asbestos products in the list of industries in respect of which industrial licence is compulsory. State Governments have been advised not to register any unit for the manufacture of asbestos products in the small scale sector. As a matter of policy, manufacture of asbestos-free products are being encouraged.

(c) There is IS:12081—1987 by Bureau of Indian Standards, New Delhi regarding recommendations for pictorial warning sign and precautionary notices for Asbestos and its products. Organised sector units are following these signs. There is also IS:11451—1986 for safety and health requirements relating to occupational exposure to asbestos.

Off-loading PSU Shares

1457. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the authority which fixed the criteria for off-loading public sector unit shares;

(b) whether objections were raised by the affected public sector unit managements on matters like bunching together the shares of weak and strong units, reduction in minimum prices after bids were received etc. and;

(c) if so, whether the committee set up for the purpose, deliberated on the issues and decisions were taken thereafter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) The Committee set up for the purpose of fixing criteria and deciding the modalities of disinvestment during 1991-92 deliberated on several occasions on several matters relating to disinvestment, and also met a number of times the public sector representatives when several suggestions and observations were put forth. The Government adopted criteria for off-loading PSU shares keeping in mind the issues related in off-loading shares to FIs/MFs.

World Bank Assistance to PSUs

1458. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

SHRI IQBAL SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank and India have worked out a plan to restructure PSUs for 93-94;